

Cloak and Dagger Aspect Of CIA Is Overstated

The Inspector general of the Central Intelligence Agency, Lyman Kirkpatrick, apparently has derived considerable amusement from the stories implying that CIA is a cloak and dagger outfit manned by spies sticking their heads into danger spots and by beautiful women who ferret out enemy secrets.

The director general brings the CIA down to earth. Actually, he says, the basic work of intelligence is the compilation, hard, painstaking and detailed research and analysis and proper interpretation and evaluation of information from all sources on conditions outside the United States.

Distilling this great mass of data may be drab, unglamorous work, but it is the stuff on which the highest decisions for the security of the nation are based.

We hope Fitzgerald has left a little of something for our imaginations. A tamely operating intelligence agency whose agents do not get themselves into impossible situations is rather hard to accept.

CPYRGHT